

Abstract of the Disclosure

After an original image, including half-tone dot
meshed characters are inputted and a prescribed process
5 is applied to the original image, black pixel connection
patterns are extracted from a target process area. If
the density of the extracted pattern exceeds prescribed
density, it is judged that the pattern is half-tone dot
meshed and both the respective average values and
10 standard deviations of the vertical/horizontal sizes
of the connection pattern are calculated. Then,
respective threshold values are calculated based on both
the respective average values and standard deviations,
and half-tone dot patterns are eliminated. Furthermore,
15 a pattern, the outline of which is long compared with
an included black pixel, of all the remaining connection
patterns is eliminated as an unnecessary pattern. Lastly,
projections attached to a character are deleted and
character extraction is terminated.